REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application. This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 3, 2005. Claims 25 and 27 stand rejected. In this Amendment, claims 25 and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirosawa, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,812,967, hereinafter "Hirosawa") in view of Matsuura, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,462, hereinafter "Matsuura").

Applicants respectfully submit the cited art fails to teach, inter alia, as claimed in claim 25: "configure one or more multiplex blocks to route interrupt request signals that are managed by the VM on the one or more interrupt request lines to an interrupt controller, configure one or more multiplex blocks to route interrupt request signals that are not managed by the VM to a virtual machine monitor (VMM) block, and generate a request to transfer control to the VM."

The Examiner admits that Hirosawa fails to expressly teach "..., configure one or more multiplex blocks to route interrupt request signals on the one or more interrupt request lines to an interrupt controller, and generate a request to transfer control to VM." The Examiner cites Matsuura (in particular, Fig. 4) as teaching these features.

Matsuura is directed to a global communication interrupt control system for a computer system in which an external storage is shared by a real machine of one computer system and a guest virtual machine which is a virtual machine of another computer system. The virtual machine receives the interrupt from the heal machine and holds the interrupt by hardware if the interrupt cannot be reflected to a control program of the virtual machine system. The control program reflects the interrupt to the guest VM when it becomes possible.

Matsuura, however, does not teach or suggest that interrupt requests received from devices managed by the VM are sent to an interrupt controller, while interrupt requests received from devices not managed by the VM are sent to a VMM block. Instead, in Matsurra, all of the interrupt requests are sent to the control program.

In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, interrupt request signals that are managed by the VM are sent to the interrupt controller, while interrupt request signals that are not managed by the VM are sent to the VMM block. As noted in the specification at paragraphs 54-59, based on this configuration, only interrupt request signals from the devices managed by the VM to be invoked can reach the interrupt controller. This also allows the VM to directly access the interrupt controller so that interrupts routed through the interrupt controller are directly handled by the VM, with no intervention by the VMM.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirosawa in view of Matsuura.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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